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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 305334

WDE
4/10/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

Gridley et al.

Application No. 09/491,661

Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: J. Fischer

Filed: January 27, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PREPARING TIRE TREAD FOR A
RETREAD TIRE

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TC 1700

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2001, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The Examiner is requested to approve the changes to Figure 4 as indicated in the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

✓ Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 4 with:

As depicted in FIG. 4, casing 22 has a curved crown section 27. Crown 27 is substantially the surface to which cushion gum 34 is applied. In an exemplary embodiment, cushion gum 34 has a polyethylene protective layer 35 adhered thereto, to prevent adhesion to other layers of cushion gum while rolled and to prevent adhesion to application rollers 40 during application. The controlled stretching of cushion gum 34, by the differential velocity introduced by gears 37, provides improved conformity of cushion gum 34 to the contoured crown 27 of casing 22. The improved conformity

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